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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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In re Application of :
Phillips, et al. : DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 09/975,748 :
Filed: October 10, 2001 :
Docket No.: 480180.403 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b), filed May 9, 2006, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This application became abandoned November 29, 2002 for failure to timely reply to the non-final Office action mailed August 28, 2002. The non-final Office action set a three (3) month shortened statutory period of time for reply. No extensions of time in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 were timely requested. Notice of Abandonment was mailed March 10, 2003.

A grantable petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(m); (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(c).

The instant petition has been reviewed and found in compliance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b). Accordingly, the failure to timely submit a proper reply to the non-final Office action is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

The above-identified application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith in accepting the statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. See, Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated

under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office).

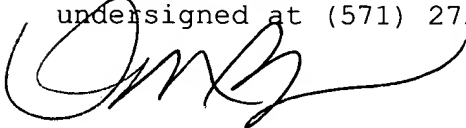
It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that practitioner herein has been empowered to represent the instant application. Moreover, the correspondence address indicated in the instant petition differs from that currently of record. If practitioner desire to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate documentation must be submitted to the Office.

Please be advised that all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center 2800 for further processing.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.



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